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Issue 3



# THE DIAMOND

## Nation debates if you need a vote for a voice

Jenna Stephens – Staff Writer

Deadly bullets marred Valentine’s Day 2018 as 19-year-old Nikolas Cruz attacked the high school he once attended in Parkland, FL. Seventeen individuals died from this massacre, making it the deadliest school shooting since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

With nearly one school shooting per week since the beginning of 2018, frightening statistics add kindling to the flame of the debate over gun control laws.

A group of students who survived the Florida massacre are leading the push for new restrictions and are doing all they can to make their voices heard. Many of the students are 16 or 17 years old. They are left making pleas to voters because they themselves cannot cast a ballot.

The students’ call to action brings up a question beyond the laws themselves. Should these students be able to vote on such topics—in this case, laws which might have affected Cruz’s access to weapons?

Some communities have already given students the right to vote. Takoma Park, MD, was the first city to lower its voting age to 16. A ballot proposition to lower the voting age of city elections in San Francisco recently lost by a slim margin. This push to lower the voting age is often led by student advocates.

Many arguments are made in support of lowering the voting age. Sixteen-year-old Americans can work without limits on their hours. They pay income tax on the money they earn. They can obtain a driver’s license. Some argue that lowering the voting age would help promote civic involvement and encourage voting habits. About 20 different countries allow individuals under the age of 18 to vote. A trend seen in some of these countries shows that 16 and 17-year-olds have better voter turnout than 18 to 21-year-olds.

“Even though they’re in high school and are affected by these situations, it is our job as their adults and authority over them to vote,” said junior Deidra Noteboom.

Of course, arguments in support of this change are met with opposition. Some argue that 16-

and 17-year-olds are not cognitively mature enough to make voting decisions. Lowering the voting age would affect consistency of law. For most laws, people are not officially considered “adults” until the age of 18. And when these students turn 18 and are given the right to vote, their fight will likely end unless a new group of teens joins the cause.

“I think the deck is stacked against them,” said Criminal Justice professor Donald Roth, “but I would never say never. Sometimes things just go viral.”

Roth pointed out that if this “marginalized” group would be able to tap into the social ground swell, they could probably do it.

The 26th Amendment lowered the voting age for federal elections from 21 to 18 in 1971. It rose out of heat from the Vietnam War and the common slogan “old enough to fight, old enough to vote.” Will heat from events like the recent Florida high school shooting bring a decrease in the federal voting age once again? The chances of seeing this change anytime soon might be slim, but students are proving that, even without a vote, they have a voice.

## Sabbath observance in Sioux Center

Jenna Stephens-- Staff Writer

Some grab a bucket of popcorn and enjoy Black Panther at the Cinema 5 Theatre in the Centre Mall. Others peer out of their living room windows and gossip about so-and-so shoveling the snow from their driveway on the Sabbath.

Being the home of nearly 20 churches and a private Christian college, Sioux Center is a largely religious city. But however “traditional” the community seems, it has seen shifts in Sabbath observance in recent decades.

To see the shift, look back to a magazine article published 70 years ago.

An issue of LIFE magazine from 1948 highlighted Sioux Center’s conservative traditions. Much of the article focused on the fight to ban films and close the movie house in town. Reverend B.J. Haan (the namesake of Dordt’s auditorium) was quoted, saying that Hollywood is “a hindrance to the Kingdom of God and an enemy of Christ.”

The article included the following caption under a photograph: “Main Street in Sioux Center is almost deserted on a Sunday, when no place of business, not even the movie theater, is open. Nearly everybody in town attends two 90-minute church services. LIFE’s photographer was sharply criticized for taking this picture on Sabbath day. Some yelled angrily, ‘Don’t you know it’s Sunday?’”

While much of the community has loosened the reigns on Sunday dos and don’ts, many businesses and restaurants still keep their doors closed. Dordt joins in on the locked-door trend, keeping students out of the classroom building and library.

Dordt students come from a wide range of backgrounds. Some see this community’s Sunday observance as overly strict or legalistic, while others think it can be too lax.

Pam Regnerus attends two church services each Sunday, because she believes learning about God is a way to glorify Him. She tries to avoid activities such as watching television and working out on Sundays.

“They’re not bad things at all, but I don’t do them on Sunday because Sunday is all about worshiping God,” she said. “I don’t want it to be about myself. I want it to be about God.”

Not all students apply Sunday observance to this extent.

“Personally I view Sunday as a day set apart for God,” said Levi Yakubu, a freshman Graphic Design major. “Sunday is the day of the Lord. It’s the Sabbath.”

But when he needs to finish an assignment or his supervisor at Walmart needs him to work, Yakubu sees these tasks as necessities.

“It’s not something I feel guilty about,” he said.

He sees worship as a lifestyle—as something we are called to do every day of the week.

Yakubu’s community in Nigeria has been influenced by Dutch missionaries, so the doctrine is similar to that which is followed in many Sioux Center churches.

“Sioux Center is very much influenced by the

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## Petition to remove LGBT literature from Orange City library causes controversy

Tess Hemmila – Staff Writer

Orange City has been riddled with controversy in recent weeks regarding a petition that called for the labeling and relocation of LGBTQ literature to a specific section.

The petition was started by the Sioux County Conservatives and Professor Chi of Northwestern College. The petition calls for the labeling and separate shelving of materials that deal with LGBTQ issues, an online rating service to advise patrons about the materials they check out and a halt on the acquisition of LGBTQ books until a community conversation can be had about the books in question.

The Orange City Public Library board held their monthly meeting on Feb. 20. A large number of local residents attended the meeting. There was a period of 40 minutes for public comment in which 20 community members voiced a variety of opinions on the issue.

Sacha Walicord, a Dordt Business professor, stands with the petition and spoke up in support of it at the board meeting.

“I don’t think it [the petition] is only justified, but also demanded from a Christian perspective,” Walicord said. “As Christians, we have to stand up to sinful behavior, but it’s also important to avoid hypocrisy and address sin among our own.”

Some of the community interest in this petition could be a reaction to OC Pride, a gay pride event held in Oct. of 2017 in Orange City. The event was the first of its kind held in the small conservative town. OC Pride was organized by members of the local community and garnered some controversy both in the community and online. One of the organizers of OC Pride, Mike Goll, has voiced his opinion in opposition of the petition.

“There are gay kids, there are trans kids in this town, and seeing their faces and lives mirrored in some of the books here means everything,”



Photo By: Sioux City Gazette

Goll said at the Feb. 20 meeting.

Sioux County Conservatives have been vocal in their stand against the LGBTQ literature. The organization’s Facebook feed has over 15 posts concerning the petition, some showing images of the books to which they object.

Professor Chi closed the online petition on Feb. 17 after a flier was distributed to Orange City residents without his permission. The flier had the petition on one side and what professor Chi called “vicious rhetoric” on the other. Chi has several statements on the website saying that he disavows the “antagonistic fliers” that were distributed to the community by people associated with the Sioux County Conservatives and the “inflammatory rhetoric” that was attached.

Many Dordt professors have weighed in on the issue as residents of Sioux County. One such professor, Matt Drissell, believes that the

literature should not be labeled or removed from the library.

“Freedom of access to information is an American right,” Drissell said. “Limiting access to these materials goes against the American spirit.”

According to English professor Mary Dengler, the banning of literature by subject has never been a good practice.

“I prefer to judge each work of literature individually and in the same way,” Dengler said. “It’s best to evaluate if the work provides a good look at human nature, what it shows us about the human condition and where it leaves readers at the end.”

According to the Director of the Orange City Public library, Amanda Vazquez, the library board will begin “reviewing the library’s Collection Development policy, and it will likely be an agenda item at the March meeting.”



## Sabbath observance in Sioux Center (cont.)



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church,” Yakubu said. “If you go to other cities, it’s different.” Seven decades after LIFE published the magazine article, Sioux Center streets are still relatively quiet on Sundays. A number of

businesses still observe this day of rest. And one of the biggest traffic jams of the week occurs between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. on Sundays as people flock to church. Some people might observe the Sabbath differently now, but certain aspects of the Sioux Center community simply refuse to change with the times.

## One shooter. 17 dead.

Joshua Meribole -- Staff Writer

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School was the site of the most recent school shooting in the United States. Relatedly, Dordt announced a new emergency system last week. This system will warn students whenever there is an emergency on campus, and provide additional information about what is occurring. According to the FBI, there were 220 active shooter incidents in the United States between 2000 and 2016, leaving 661 people dead. Approximately 15 percent these of active shooter incidents occurred in PK-12 schools. “When we went into the profession of wanting to be teachers, we did not think that we would have to potentially throw our bodies in front of our students,” said Megan Van Den Berg, a senior Elementary Education Major. Most schools nationwide implement active shooter training for students and staff. In the past, the training involved schools going into lockdown and remaining in lockdown state for a period of time. Gary McEldowney, the principal of Sioux Center High School, explains the training that is done in his school: Alert Lockdown Inform Counter and Evacuate (ALICE). “We have ALICE training, we have done it with our teaching staff, we have done simulation of an intruder,” McEldowney said.

During the last drill, in the fall of 2017, the school did something different. The Local Law Enforcement shot blanks up in the air. Parents, Student, and teachers were told about this prior to the firing. The purpose, he explained, was so that people would know what an active shooter situation would sound like, as well as how to properly respond. “We are empowering our staff and student to understand that they have options if presented in a bad situation,” he said. With the looming threat of school shootings, there is political conversation about arming teachers. “I have shot a gun at a shooting range and stuff, and I hated that feeling, that feeling in the hands,” Van Den Berg said. However, she said that if it is the school board’s policy she would be willing to have a gun. Politicians, gun control activists, and gun supporters are still debating about current gun laws. President Trump has proposed banning bump stocks as well as increasing the age of people to legally purchase some firearms from 18 to 21. For more information on school shooting and warning signs look up: <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/stats-services-publications-school-shooter-school-shooter/view>

## 110 girls kidnapped.

Joshua Meribole -- Staff Writer

One-hundred and ten girls have been kidnapped by the militant group Boko Haram, according to recent media reports from the BBC. The attack took place in Dapchi, Nigeria. The gunmen attacked the Government Sciences and Technical School. The Government Sciences and Technical School has 926 students. “The big deal is that the government is failing its security promises because the number one promise of the Burahi Administration is security,” Matthew Ojo, a Nigerian student at Dordt said. After Nigeria’s election in 2015, the new president, Muhammad Buhari, promised to make the country more secure and get rid of the Boko Haram threat that plagued the lives of many Nigerians. In the same year, after regaining power, he declared Boko Haram defeated. This event is similar to an event in 2014 where more than 274 girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram. The group was known as the Chibok Girls. The most recent attack happened approximately 170 miles from Chibok.

“It kind of shows that there needs to be more security in those schools and some sort of security in the northern region otherwise parents will lose faith in sending their own children to school,” Ojo said. Who is Boko Haram? Boko Haram, is translated to “western education is forbidden” according to BBC News. Boko Haram was started in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf. They are responsible for the death of thousands of Nigerians. They have also attacked Cameroon, Niger and Chad. In 2003, Boko Haram began its attacks in Nigeria in the State of Yobe. In 2009, after the terrorist group launched and killed numerous policemen, the Nigerian military responded by killing 700 militants including their leader. After the death of their leader, Boko Haram escalated the amount of their attacks. Churches and mosques became their targets. When Boko Haram attacked the Chibok Girls in 2014, they said that they had taken them as their wives. In 2017, 82 of the Chibok girls were released. President Buhari has said that the Nigerian government will work to try and find the girls who have been abducted.

## Olympic rundown

Zachary Sanford -- Staff Writer

The two-week Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, has come to a close. The Games ran from Feb. 8-25. South Korea is 15 hours ahead of Iowa. Athletes were forced to adapt in traveling and waking up in weird hours. One competitor, Redmond Gerard, age 17, of the U.S., nearly missed his snowboard run by oversleeping after watching “Brooklyn Nine-Nine” on Netflix the night before. He ended up turning the obstacle into a gold medal in Men’s Slopestyle and his coach let it slide. Another one of the highlights of the Winter Olympics is something many people overlook: Curling. Curling is a sport of precision, accuracy and scrub brushes. The goal is to knock the opponent’s stone away from the middle target by using a stone, keeping it in-bounds. Team USA came from behind and beat Sweden for the men’s gold medal.

Shaun White won his third gold medal in the Snowboard Half-Pipe. He is the record holder for the most X-Games gold medals and has won 10 ESPY Awards. He landed back-to-back 1440’s, a 1260 and a front side 12. This gold medal was the 100th gold medal for the U.S. in Winter Olympics history. Team USA did very well when it came to snowboarding. Chloe Kim won gold in the Women’s Half-Pipe, Jamie Anderson won gold in Women’s Slopestyle as well as silver in the Women’s Big-Air event. Kyle Mack, a

crowd favorite, won silver in Men’s Big Air and Arielle Gold won bronze in the Women’s Half-Pipe. The U.S. brought home medals in skiing as well. Mikaela Shiffrin won gold in Giant Slalom and Alpine Combined. Lindsey Vonn earned a bronze medal in the Downhill during her last Winter Olympics. Another huge win for Team USA was the women’s ice hockey team. They faced Canada in the gold medal game and came out victorious in a shootout. USA goalie Maddie Rooney saved a shot by Canada’s Jennifer Wakefield for the final save to give the United States the victory. The whole team rushed out on the ice and dog-piled Rooney. This gold came 38 years to the day of the famous “Miracle on Ice.” With all of the medals won, the United States was short on predicted numbers when it came to the closing ceremony. The United States Olympic Committee predicted that Team USA would win between 25 and 37 medals. They only won 23. Around 35 Americans finished between fourth and sixth place throughout the games. The final standings: Norway-39 (14 gold), setting a new Winter Games record; Germany-31 (14 gold), Canada-29 (11 gold), USA-23 (nine gold), and Netherlands-20 (eight gold).

Be sure to tune in for the 2018 Winter Paralympics, held March 8-18, also held in PyeongChang, South Korea.

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# Black History Month and its origins

Justin Banks -- Guest Writer



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Colleges across the nation have set aside time to bring attention to black history month by initiating a number of activities on campus. Many schools have stated that this is a time to both observe and to acknowledge the history of African Americans.

The acknowledgement of Black History Month is not only beneficial because of its impact on the African American community, but it can also be used as a tool to bridge the gap between racial differences.

Many of the African American students at Dordt are hopeful that the recognition of black history month might match or one day come close to that of the hundreds of other schools across the country.

“I take pride in this month because it embraces my culture, and it acknowledges the endeavors that both my culture and people have overcome,” says Everett Hill Jr., senior at Dordt College. “It is a time of learning and a time of fellowship that cannot be fit into one month; nevertheless, I am appreciative of this time that has been allocated to my people.”In the summer of 1915, Carter G. Woodson traveled to Chicago to celebrate the 50th anniversary of emancipation carried out by the state of Illinois. During this time, thousands of African Americans traveled the country to visit places that highlighted the progression of the black race since slavery.

Woodson believed that by publishing a compilation of scientific history about the achievements of both Africans and people of African descent that race relations might be mended, and more importantly the image of the African American race might be changed for the better.

He, along with many other African American academics, believed that the publication of The Journal of Negro History should be used to highlight the achievements of the black race.

In 1924, the Negro History and Literature Week—later renamed as the Negro Achievement Week—was birthed out of a request that Woodson made in 1920 to his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi. He asked black civic organizations to advertise the achievements of black researches.

Woodson sent out a press release which officially announced Negro History Week to be in February of 1926. It is believed that this month was selected to celebrate Black History because of two influential figures whose birthdates fall in the month: Abraham Lincoln, born on the 12th , and Frederick Douglas’s on the 14th.

For reasons beyond this, since the assassination of President Lincoln, the African American community has celebrated his birthday—creating a tradition. Similarly, since the late 1890’s, Douglas’s birthday was already a largely celebrated day.

The consensus amongst the section of the student body that has grown to appreciate this month does not believe that the school is obligated to give acknowledgment to this month; rather, these students are hopeful that an appreciation for this month might one day be shared with other students on campus.

By giving recognition to Black History Month at a college where black students are the minority, students like Everett Hill Jr. hope that change might one day permeate both the campus and the community.

# Communication Club looks forward to spring events

Clarissa Kraayenbrink -- Staff Writer

The Communication Club is not limited to just communication majors. Everyone uses communication in their everyday lives and a lot of other majors may find the club’s field trips beneficial.

Last semester, the club visited Agency Two Twelve, a public relations and marketing agency here in Sioux Center. Members got to see what a day in the life of a PR person is really like. They got to talk to employees about things like clients, projects and crisis communication. Faculty advisor Tom Prinsen says he enjoys seeing students realize what they can do with their degrees, things they may have never thought of before.

“It’s fun to watch students putting themselves into those positions,” Prinsen said. “That’s the kind of thing you can’t really do in class. You can talk about it in class, but you can’t see it in action.”

The main event the club has planned for the spring is an overnight trip to Minneapolis. The dates for the trip are March 22-23 and the group will visit places like the Star Tribune newspaper and Target Field, among others. The club would also like to visit a television station in Sioux City sometime this spring to give all communication majors – from journalism to



Contributed Photo

digital media and even business and marketing majors – a glimpse into another avenue where they can use their degrees after graduation.

Prinsen also enjoys the informal aspect of the club. For instance, they gathered on Presidents’ Day last week to watch the 2012 film Lincoln, where Prinsen brought popcorn and people gathered in a casual setting. That’s something you can’t get in the formal setting of a class, Prinsen adds.

If you would like more information on the club or would like to receive their email updates, feel free to email Tom Prinsen or club president Clarissa Kraayenbrink.

# Dordt engineering is stepping forward

Zachary Sanford -- Staff Writer

The engineering department went on the annual BIG TOUR, this year in Omaha and Lincoln, Neb., on Feb. 15-16. The groups of civil and mechanical engineers got to see over 15 different worksites that piqued, filled and intrigued the interests of their selected majors.

The group of students got up early Thursday morning, loaded the vans and set off for the Plains. The civil group visited a road construction site while the mechanicals visited CLAAS, a combine manufacturing company.

Hearing each company say why they were important to the world was fascinating for the attendees. The companies sold the notion that without their company, the world would not be as well off.

In some cases that may be true: Without the wheel, our world might be set back a long time. On the first night, the group got to talk with Dordt engineering alumni and ask questions, hang out and eat food. Even though there weren’t a lot of questions asked, it was interesting to see how God placed each of these people in their respective jobs and how they are impacting the people around them.

One fascinating thing that was stated on a tour from a Dordt grad was that work was not about work; instead it was about people and supplying the legitimate need for something.

For the rest of the tour, the group walked around inside the structural building of a new corporation headquarters, looked at state-of-the-art 3D metal printing machines and got up close to pole manufacturing.

Over the course of these visits, each company pitched why working for them is the way to

go. The touring of plants and sites really gave the group a sense of what it could be like to work as an engineer in the real world, on real applications.

Taking tours for engineering majors is one of the best ways to see their desired occupation in action. The engineering department has eight senior projects. These aren’t just to build things and store them in the back after a grade has been slapped on.

Instead, they are practical projects that will impact people for the better. One group is building a bridge in Haiti and another is building a mower for crops. They are putting into action what God has gifted them. Practicing techniques in a guided setting will provide the right instruction when there is no guide to follow.

Different opportunities for engineers include the steel bridge project and the concrete canoe. Both are hands-on experiences for tools in communication and people relations.

The engineering department is especially aware that as designers and innovators of the future, it must be in the hands of thoughtful people. Not looking for an advantage over another, but to build a better culture, revealing God’s creation in everything they do is what the department strives for. That’s the meaning of Shalom.

The Dordt College Engineering Statement says, “Engineers have the privilege and responsibility of developing and keeping God’s creation. This God-given responsibility means that an engineer’s technical skill set is rooted in a biblical understanding of his or her calling. Pushed to understand how all aspects of an engineer’s work can serve the Lord.”

# Dordt hires less than 40 percent of RA applicants

Joshua Meribole -- Staff Writer

This year Dordt received 85 Resident Assistant applications. Out of the applicants, only 33 were chosen.

As the spring semester approaches the midway point, the application process for next year’s RAs has concluded.

“I really enjoyed being paid to know people,” said Jalyn Vander Wal, who was a past RA.

Although being an RA has its perks, such as free housing plus salary, the job can also be stressful.

“There are so many people that want to do the job because of the financial sense to do so, because you do get free room for that, but when that becomes your only motive, you burn out quickly,” said Sam Roskamp, who was an RA for two years.

Now a senior, Roskamp looks back at his days as an RA and the difficulties he had to face. One of the difficulties, he says, is explaining “nit-picky rules.” Fortunately, he says that he is the sort of person to stick by the rules.

“On business, I know that I am being held liable to Student Services and my bosses there,” Roskamp said. “And if they hear that an RA is not doing their job, it looks bad.”

Apart from enforcing rules, Roskamp discussed the difficulties he faced when it came to documenting friends.

“It can be scary confronting your friends,” said Derek Buteyn, director of residence life.

He continued by explaining what makes it easy. RA’s only hand out documents and do not determine the punishments. He also went on to say that friends of RA’s understand their responsibility.

Looking back, Vander Wal said that she faced different problems while being an RA. For her, one of the most challenging was defining what type of relationship she was to have with her residents.

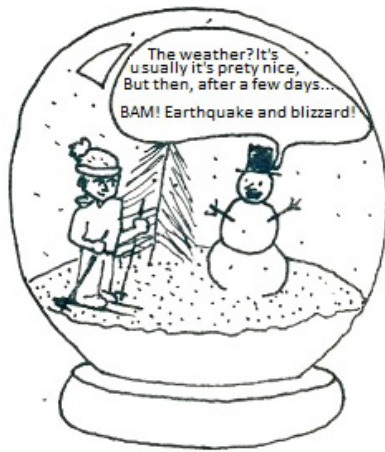
“I realized that I wasn’t the mother of these girls on my wing,” Vander Wal said. “I was their friend.”

On the job, some of the problems she had to deal with was with comparison.

“Lord, help me not to compare myself to the other RAs, help me to be the best one I can be.” This is a prayer that is commonly prayed by current RA’s.

Although both Vander Wal and Roskamp had their own difficulties, they both said they grew with the job and ending up loving it.

“It’s a unique position,” Roskamp said.



Cartoon By: Elizabeth Helmkamp



# ◆ Feature ◆

## Dordt engineers bridge the gap for a Haitian school

Sawyer Strelnieks-- Staff Writer

Imagine having to cross a dangerous ravine just to get to class. This is what some students in Haiti face every day.

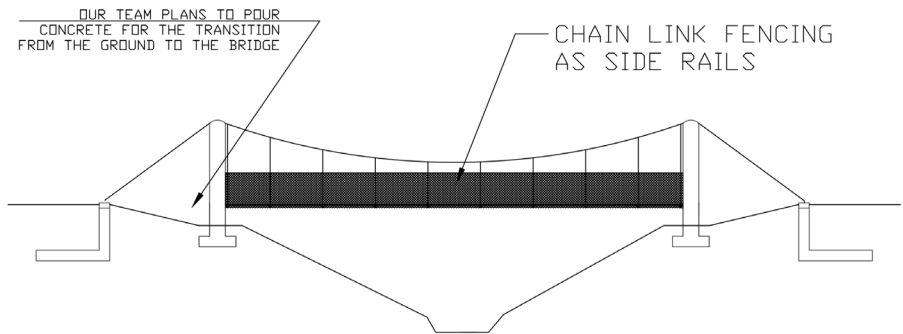
A group of Dordt engineering students are constructing a walking bridge for a town in Haiti over spring break so the students can get to school safely.

Two years ago, for a senior design project, a group of Dordt engineering students designed and built a walking bridge for a community in Liberia. After hearing about the bridge in Liberia, Professor Elgersma’s daughter, Lexi Oudman, who works for a mission school in the town of Ti Riviere, Haiti, contacted Dordt saying that they were in need of a bridge in their town.

“I personally chose this project because of the work Mission Haiti is doing in Ti Riviere,” said Yannick Habimana, a senior engineering major. “They are empowering a community through kids’ education and sharing the gospel.”

Conner Stephens, David Davelaar, Ryan Pasveer and Habimana saw this as a great opportunity for a senior design project.

The seniors realized this project would



also give them valuable experience in the professional fields they are entering.

“We were excited about this project because it’s more than just a project for a grade,” said Stephens, a senior majoring in civil and environmental engineering. “We are actually getting to use our education to make a difference in the world.”

After meeting with school representatives and seeing pictures of the site where the bridge would be constructed, the team decided that a pedestrian suspension bridge was the best option.

After some calculations, they found the bridge would span 45 feet across a 15-foot ravine. Four thick cables will hold up the bridge, which will be anchored to tall concrete pillars at either side of the ravine.

The first step in the design process was what type of bridge design to go with. The team was looking for a design that would be easy to build given their resources and tools. The next step was getting plans to a contractor in Haiti so the bridge’s foundation and concrete pillars would be complete by spring break.

One of the trickiest parts of the design,

according to Davelaar, a senior civil and environmental engineering major, was designing a bridge so that any of its pieces could be replaced. Doing this along with a budget and site constraints gave the team a demanding senior project. That was exactly what Davelaar was expecting. He has always had the desire to help people in need, especially internationally. When he heard of an engineering project in Haiti, he jumped on it.

“I chose this project because, in the past, I have seen senior design projects that are just largely conceptual and design-oriented without the project going to completion and being built,” Davelaar said.

Supplies have already been shipped to the site and are expected to arrive before the team. Workers in Haiti have already done the foundation and concrete work for the bridge.

The four seniors are anticipating it will only take them a week to put the bridge up by themselves. According to Stephens, the bridge only weighs 1500 pounds and is calculated to hold more than 14,000 pounds.

Contributed Photos



## PLIA: Behind the scenes

Janelle Cammenga-- Staff Writer

In a little under two weeks, 119 Dordt students will pile into passenger vans packed with supplies, drive to sites around the country, meet new people, have crazy adventures and serve others.

But the tradition of PLIA starts far before the start of spring break. A lot goes on behind the scenes before the first bus is packed.

“It never stops,” said senior Sam Hawks, PLIA co-chair. “It’s year-round planning.”

Five subcommittees handle the responsibility of making the trips happen. Committees include: food, devotions, transportation, T-shirt design and advertising.

“Anybody can get involved,” Hawks said. “We’d love it if you went on a trip, but it’s not necessary.”

“I gave a lot of presentations on Mendenhall, Miss. It was kind of crazy,” said sophomore Sarah Siglin, who is on both the T-shirt team and the advertising team.

Advertising consists mostly of putting up slides at chapel and Praise and Worship and hanging posters around campus. The group focuses on letting people know when meetings are, relying on word of mouth from past participants to explain how PLIA works and what it has to offer.

Hawks and sophomore Ana Timmer co-chair the operation. They spend about two to three hours on PLIA tasks a week in the fall and four to 10 hours a week during the spring. Choosing the teams this year took them about six and a half hours.

The planning committee tries to put students in groups with people of whom they don’t usually interact. They also try to take the students’ location preferences into account whenever possible, since they believe students’ preferences may be a sign of where they feel God is leading them.

“We’re put in a position to choose the teams,” Hawks said. “But it’s amazing to see the way the Lord orchestrates what’s going on. He works through us to help prepare his plan for PLIA.”

Last year, they put together a team of people to go to Denver, Colo. None of the team had marked Denver as their first choice, but they grew so close with each other that they still meet for “family dinners” often.

In terms of new sites, anything is possible. “Just dream it up,” Hawks said.

If planning members think of a location they want to help, they try to find Dordt connections in the area.

Their goal in choosing sites is to empower existing organizations. Helping these groups instead of just doing their own short-term projects “shows you what other ministries struggle with,” Siglin said.

The system also helps to build lasting relationships with communities. Most PLIA sites have been long-standing traditions. Dordt students have been visiting Mendenhall, Miss., for many years and Cary, Miss., for 35 years.

“A short-term missions trip ended up being a long-term friendship with itty bitty Mendenhall, Miss.,” Siglin said. “People see us walking down the street and yell, ‘It’s Dordt!’”

The planning committee is hoping to emphasize devotional life this year.

“It’s as much about individual growth as it is the site that we serve,” Hawks said. “More often than not, you feel more blessed by your site location than you feel like you bless them.”

Throughout the process, Hawks is very conscious that God is in control of their plans, whether it’s choosing teams or site locations.

“He’s going to make it what it’s going to be, and it’s going to be awesome,” Hawks said. “God shows up and does what He does when you’re willing to be open.”

## Dordt reevaluates snow day policy

Elizabeth Helmkamp -- Staff Writer

The storm that happened on January 22 caused the administration to realize that because the school had never actually had a snow day before, the protocol for what to do if the school actually decided to close was not well-rehearsed. The policy currently states that the president must be the one to cancel school. Wilson says that the administration is going through “scenario planning” to improve the plans for what to do in a winter storm.

“We’re going to look at our policy, how often we communicate and how we communicate to students, faculty and staff,” Wilson said. “Second, what would we do if we closed? For example, what services would we close, would we close the library? The Rec Center and things like that? If it’s not safe for people to go to class, is it safe for people to go to the library or to the Rec Center?”

Another thing they are discussing is which parking lots to focus on clearing first in a snowstorm if school is going to stay open.

Dordt College has not had a full snow day during a semester since it was founded in 1955.

According to Howard Wilson, Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of Dordt College, exams were delayed for a day once because of a storm coming in. In another instance, students were given an extra day to travel back for Thanksgiving break and one other time during a spring break due to severe weather, but there has never been an official snow day.

During Wilson’s time here at Dordt, a late start was called about two years ago, classes started at 10 in the morning because the sheriff had requested there not be any travel at that time, because the county and city plows were

out. During the last storm, administration called an early end to the day, so people could go home in the daylight.

“As far as I can tell, we’ve actually never closed completely for a snowstorm,” Wilson said.

The process for deciding whether the school will close, or more likely, have a delayed start or early end, starts the day before. Provost Eric Forseth, Wilson and Nate van Niejenhuis (Director of Facilities & Services), talk 24 hours in advance. If they think the weather will be bad, Wilson sends out an email saying there might not be school and telling students to check their emails in the morning. At this point, they don’t know for sure whether the school will be closing yet, they just want people to be aware.

“Couldn’t you just cancel class like the night before and tell us when we’re not having class?” is a common question Wilson gets.

“Well, so far we haven’t [canceled class] really,” Wilson said. “I haven’t seen a scenario where we could actually make that call accurately 12 to 15 hours in advance. The weather at 6 a.m. on that Monday [January 22] that we had the storm, the roads were very passable, it only closed in at about 9:00. It’s northwest Iowa, conditions can be highly variable, even 10 miles apart, places can have very different weather.”

The weather is checked again during the night, and at 6 a.m., they talk again. Jim Bos, the registrar, and the president, if he is available, also take part in this meeting. The snow team is already out working at this point usually, and they talk about if they can keep doors and sidewalks open. They then decide whether or not to close, or what other course of action to take.



## Students look toward summer jobs

Elizabeth Helmkamp-- Staff Writer

It's that time of year again: when many students start to look for summer jobs and internships.

According to Dordt Career Center Coordinator Amy Westra, industries tend to hire for the summer in seasons. Both Engineering and Accounting internships are often filled in the fall. Agriculture, summer camps, and summer ministries are mostly looking for students around now.

"More of the social sciences are on the busy side now," Westra said. "Where some of the more technical things—like engineering, and accounting—were way, way, way earlier."

While not everyone has their plans set in stone, some students have cool aspirations for their summer jobs. For example, Heath Brower—a junior and a secondary education major at Dordt—is hoping to be a camp counselor this summer.

"I was just thinking about what I was going

to do, and it came into my mind because someone else was applying to be a camp counselor elsewhere," Brower said. "I was like 'Hey, I know this camp in Michigan that I went to; I wonder if they're hiring.' So I went on their website and sure enough, they had an application, and I had luckily found that out a week before they were due."

Some students already have internships and jobs lined up.

"Over the summer I work for a construction company and I do a little bit of everything," freshman Victor Julien said.

Other students are returning to jobs they have held over the course of several summers. "I'm fighting fires in the summer," senior Nathan Struyk said. "I've been doing this for four years, so this is my fifth summer doing it."

"I will be working at Old Navy at home," sophomore Julia Yoder said. "I've had [the job] for two years now; I started my junior year in high school."

## Spring Break plans

Emma Stoltzfus-- Staff Writer



Photo by: Emma Stoltzfus

Dordt College's spring break is swiftly approaching. With just over a week left until the only break in the spring semester, students are making plans. Spring break for Dordt students begins after classes on Mar. 9 and continues until classes begin on Mar. 20.

Where home and school lie in relation to each other sometimes affects whether or not students go home for break.

Tony Zou—a senior from China—will be spending the first few days in California competing in a forensics tournament with the Dordt forensics team before returning to campus for the remainder of break.

Freshman Tristan Van Leeuwen hails from New Jersey and plans on road-tripping to Colorado with his roommate Nick Schnell and

## Black Panther: Addressing the diaspora

Michel Gomes -- Guest Writer



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It felt amazing to walk out of the cinema, and think, "Hell yeah, Africa Forever." It felt great to see our wildlife, garments, musical instruments and beautiful scenery on screen. But it also felt great to see a movie which brought in dialogue on an old problem. In Black Panther, we see several themes, and one is the family reunion between the mother and her long-lost child.

The Scramble for Africa created a situation that could be compared to a mother being torn from her child. The motherland saw its children being shipped abroad, never to see them again while it endured the violence and abuse of colonialism. Countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo were forced to produce goods for its invaders. If tribes could not match the quota of the day, they would just have their hands chopped off. If Senegal offered troops for World War I and asked for compensation, every soldier who fought would be lined up and be gunned down. The West took, and gave little to nothing back, but Africa had to keep producing. Meanwhile in the Americas, generations of Africans were alienated from their culture, from their identity. They were given new names, assigned a new religion and forced to speak the language of their masters. The African American only had memories of their grandparents (when they were fortunate enough to grow up with them) to use to think about their identity. Growing up, they were treated like and trained to think like cattle. The African American man would almost never be around to raise his children. While he was on the fields, his babies might be in the master's house and treated like pets, while the mother might be forced into satisfying her master's

unholy desires. Africans were taught to neglect their children, and their American counterparts taught them to live without parental guidance.

Black Panther had one character from each side of the problem. T'Challa is king of Wakanda. The utopic ethno-centric state is the beacon of technological advances and progress through the scope of African culture. Wakanda really represents Africa, as the movie borrows music, instruments, clothing and jewelry from all of sub-saharan Africa. Wakanda, however, is not the exotic Africa in which tribal chiefs wear leopard skin; T'Challa is not the messianic prophet king that blacks around the world hope for. Wakanda echoes forgotten mighty African civilizations that, for most of human history, were at the forefront of cultural and technological progress. And to see ourselves portrayed in a positive light, even if Wakanda is fictional, rekindled the fire in our chests. It reminded us that African history did not begin with colonialism.

Erik Killmonger, T'Challa's cousin, knows that history. He heard the stories from his father and shaped his entire life in preparation for going back. The problem with which Erik struggles is a problem that much of the African diaspora faces: How do we root ourselves back into our mother culture? The attempt to do so often creates a misunderstanding of the original culture. For example, scarification. In Black Panther, Erik scars himself for each man he has killed. The practice of scarification is old, and predominant in West Africa, but it is not used for body count, rather it is used for showing membership to a family or social status.

The meeting between T'Challa and Erik shows the clear divide between the two cultures. Erik grew up in the projects with no father. He made it through life by holding onto the dream of one day returning home and reclaiming what was denied to him—the riches of his ancestors' past included. T'Challa is faced with the difficult choice of whether he should or not be inclusive to his neighbors. Africa's present situation is largely due to the fact that, when the West found out about our resources, it stripped us clean of them. Wakanda is rightly afraid of being transparent about their resources, for fear of enduring the same fate as the rest of Africa. But for nations who are beginning to break free from the aftermath of colonialism, do we have a moral responsibility for our diaspora brothers?

The end of Black Panther has T'Challa buy the buildings from the area Killmonger grew up in. There, T'Challa plans to put an embassy and exchange the technological advances from Wakanda with the world. The end scene is powerful, as T'Challa personally takes over the projects, and begins to offer a way out which empowers African Americans.

## Visscher to attend Bridging the Two Cultures II in Oxford

Evangeline Colarossi-- Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

Twenty-four faculty members from across the United States and Canada will take part in Bridging of the Two Cultures II in July. Each of the participating members come from a college that is affiliated with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. During the conference, Dordt professor Channon Visscher will have the opportunity to attend various lectures, work on his own research and travel around to experience the culture of Oxford.

"The names on here are amazing," Visscher said as he looked at the list of speakers for the event.

The aim of Bridging the Two Cultures II is to amend the gaps between the sciences and the humanities. Scholarship and Christianity in Oxford (SCIO) wants to help professors address both sides of this gap and assist them in developing their own literature that supports science and religion combined. Science and faith can be controversial topics, so SCIO wants to motivate professors from differing studies to work together and talk about these questions.

The lecturers will be covering topics of science and faith and ways of understanding the limitations of knowledge.

As a professor who is always teaching other people, Visscher said he is expecting to absorb information from other teachers this summer

a group of friends.

Many students are heading on Dordt-affiliated trips, including members of the concert choir, sports teams, and PLIA (Putting Love Into Action) participants.

PLIA offers Dordt students the opportunity to volunteer in various communities around America over spring break.

Freshman Shannon Oostenink will be heading to Colorado Springs, Colo., with PLIA. While there, Oostenink will be working with Summit Ministries and Evangelical Christian Academy doing cleaning and maintenance and leading chapel.

What Oostenink looks forward to most is "building relationships with people on the trip, God and those I come into contact with on the trip."

Marti Sutton, a freshman from California, will be traveling to Tucson, Ariz., with the varsity softball and baseball teams for a tournament.

"[The trip there]'s going to be an adventure in and of itself," Sutton said, "because we're taking a bus the whole way there instead of flying like most teams."

Some students will be traveling internationally for break, such as Anne Wright—a sophomore from Minnesota—who will be going on a mission trip to Haiti with her church.

Whether students are planning on staying at Dordt, going home, or traveling, spring break is a much-anticipated rest from homework and classes.

and the next.

"I really do want to treat it as something where I will learn a lot," Visscher said. "I want to become more familiar with the history and philosophy and theology surrounding those questions."

Visscher, along with the other attendees, will have time to work on his own research project and have each of the Oxford libraries at his fingertips to use as resources. The professors will each continue their research through the course of the year, returning to Oxford during July 2019 to attend more conferences and present their research conclusions.

Visscher's research project fits alongside the cosmology and humanity course he is co-teaching with Professor Cosgrove this semester. He will be studying how science stories behave in their own way as creation stories.

"It's very easy for us to separate myth from truth," Visscher said. "One of the goals of the cosmology class is to stop using 'myth' as a bad word."

He wants to explore the stories that come along with science and learn how to reflect the creation of the world.

"I think where you can have the most interesting conversations is at the intersection between these two fields of science and the humanities," he said.

Who influences whom: how have past resources influenced the science and humanity stories that we hear? How do we define truth? These are gaping questions that loom overhead, but they are some of the questions that will be addressed in these discussions.

Visscher's main focus will be on creation stories for the solar systems and examining the role of violence in creation. The big question he is asking is, "How do black holes and collisions mix with our understanding of God and His creation?"

One thing Visscher is excited for doesn't even take place at the seminar. The Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford is hosting a Tolkien exhibit throughout the summer, and he is planning on attending. This will feature original manuscripts, artwork and other artifacts from Tolkien's various handiworks, along with personal letters and photos.



## 17 dead. So now what?

Brad Weber-- Staff Writer

There is a public menace facing this nation. It claims the lives of 88,000 Americans every year, according to the CDC. Since the founding of our country it has been a part of our culture, but it has led to countless tragedies. The laws we have are clearly ineffective if you simply look at the death toll, but our lawmakers are lobbied and funded by powerful interest groups and are unwilling to address the problem and implement commonsense laws. Why are we, as a nation, so infatuated with our rights that we cannot see the clear path to prevent this needless bloodshed? Isn't it finally time to repeal the 21st amendment?

You've read correctly: the 21st amendment. If you don't recall from your high school American History class, that was the amendment that repealed the 18th amendment and made alcohol legal again. All these facts are about alcohol. Alcohol kills a lot of people in the U.S. On February 17th, a 6-year-old girl was playing in her yard when she was fatally struck by a drunk driver. As tragic as this event was, I didn't hear any calls for an alcohol ban or more restrictions on the substance. No one told our politicians that the blood was on their hands because they failed to restrict access to alcohol. No one blamed the powerful alcohol lobby.



Contributed Photo

According to the CDC, there are around 33,000 firearm-related fatalities a year, less than half of the 88,000 alcohol-related deaths. The "powerful" gun lobby that is being heavily criticized, spent \$10 million in 2017, as compared to \$30 million spent by the alcohol lobby, according to the Center for Responsive

Politics. As an aside, both these amounts are paltry sums compared to the almost \$300 million spent by the pharmaceutical lobby. Alcohol is regulated to the point that you need to present a state-issued photo ID to purchase. In contrast, to purchase a firearm, you need to present a state-issued photo ID, undergo a background check, purchase through a Federal Firearms Licensed company, and fill out an ATF form 4473. To purchase a handgun, you must apply for a permit to purchase at your local sheriff's office, as well as completing the steps for purchasing a firearm in general.

So, if alcohol kills so many people, and is lightly regulated, why do we not hear calls for stricter alcohol control after drunk driving tragedies? Maybe it is because people believe an alcohol ban would only affect law-abiding citizens, who don't drink and drive anyway. Maybe it's because people believe if you ban alcohol, people will just make their own. Maybe people believe that we have a right to consume alcohol, and the government should not take that right away. Maybe they believe criminalizing alcohol would only shift the market underground and give criminal organizations a source of revenue. Clearly anyone who makes these arguments doesn't care about dead children. They are infatuated with their right to consume alcohol. Lawmakers who don't support prohibition are puppets of the powerful Distilled Spirits Council. No one should be opposed to common sense alcohol-control laws like banning assault alcohol. What possible use does anyone have for 90-proof alcohol?

On second thought, maybe those arguments are legitimate. It might be better to have constructive dialogue about the principles that govern our society instead of demonizing those who hold to their values. We should look critically at the fact that, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, firearms are used for self-defense between 60,000 and 120,000 times annually. We shouldn't ignore the mixed results of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban of 1994. It's time for a dialogue about guns that's based on facts and values, not emotion.

## Men, where have we gone?

Caleb Pollema -- Staff Writer

Another shooting, another political debate over gun control and school safety has ensued.

"There has been nothing but political gun control arguments on my Facebook feed," said freshman Adam Maser.

Regardless of the side of the political aisle on which you stand or what position of the gun control debate that you side with, one thing is certain: There is something very wrong with the hearts of men.

Nikolas Cruz, the shooter in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Florida, was a troubled soul. He lacked stability in his family life and his home life.

This theme is evident in other mass shootings in the United States in recent years. We saw this same phenomenon occur in the Las Vegas shooting in October with 64-year-old, Stephen Paddock.

Men are losing their minds. Families are troubled and fathers are nowhere to be found. Fathers have not raised their sons, and sons have not respected their fathers.

The bond and love between father and son seems to have been lost. So often men shy away from the word love because it looks soft and shows weakness.

"There needs to be an appropriate amount of discipline and love," freshman Cole Evans said.

Fathers need to reclaim their space as leaders in the home and by doing so instill a level of discipline and love.

"It's like the relationship between a player and his coach," Maser said. "I need to respect my coach, but my coaches also need to respect me."

The balance between discipline and love is unique to each father-son relationship, and it takes time to build such a relationship and balance.

I myself have been blessed with a great dad. He is one of people that I look up to most in everything.

However, some fathers and sons have rocky relationships that don't end so well. This is truly a shame for both the son and his father.

Regardless of how our current relationships with our fathers stand, we must all agree that we can model our relationship after God and his relationship with each of us as sons.

We can love each other boldly and pray for each other more fervently. When we do this, maybe—just maybe—we will begin to see change in our land.

Maybe we will begin to see fathers and sons come alongside one another to build each other up and not tear each other down.

I find it fitting that the week after such travesty and loss in Florida, we experienced another loss, though not in the same token.

We experienced the loss of one of the greatest evangelists of the 20th century, Billy Graham. Graham preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ across the world.

"Nothing can bring a real sense of security into the home except true love," Graham said once in an interview.

Men across our nation should heed the words of the late Mr. Graham. We are in a time when we need nothing more than the peace and love of Jesus in this world of mass shootings and violence.

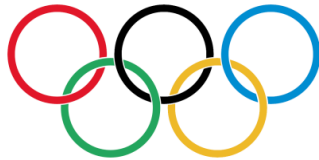
I hope that men, young and old, will understand the importance of reclaiming their true purpose and calling in our society: to lead one another out of love and discipline.

I hope that fathers and sons can be blessed by each other and grow together in respect and friendship.

Men, I hope we can learn to love again.

## 2018 winter olympics come to a close

Cory Van Gilst -- Staff writer



Contributed Photo

The 2018 Winter Olympic Games have finally come to a close. It was a thrilling 17 days full of cross-country skiing, bobsledding and curling in PyeongChang. Personally, I do not know how I will be able to tide myself over until the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing. I guess I will have to entertain myself with the countless alternative sporting events that are far more exciting.

Yes, believe it or not, the Super Bowl, March Madness, and the FIFA World Cup are all more exhilarating than watching people compete in ice dancing. Every four years, I find myself underwhelmed by the Winter Olympics. Perhaps this is because of the lack of nations participating due to the fact that not all of them are covered in ice. It could also be that the events are harder to engage with. Or maybe

this year it was a result of the poor showing the U.S. put on for the first half. Needless to say, I did not find myself waking up every morning excited to tune in to NBC.

That being said, I still do not feel everything about the Games failed to excite. I can tell you it felt really good watching the U.S. beat Canada to win gold in women's hockey. Witnessing Lindsey Vonn's final run down an Olympic course was also very moving. And who can forget the United States curling team that came out of nowhere to claim their first-ever gold! As an American and a sports fanatic, I loved these moments of the Games.

So while I can't say I thoroughly enjoy the Winter Olympics in all their icy splendor, I can't say I hate them either. Perhaps I will take on a perspective of gratefulness toward the past two weeks. Even though I may not care about half the events, others obviously do and will continue to do so for the next four years before the next big hoopla. Besides, the Games served as a nice holdover from the end of the football season until March Madness can tip off in a few days. So thanks, Winter Olympics, I guess.

## Walicord's evolution response

Sacha Walicord -- Guest Writer

A friendly response to Amelia Rens' article "The evolution and faith paradox... or is it?" (Issue 2, February 15, 2018)

It is encouraging to see young Christians wrestle with difficult issues that pertain to our faith and I commend students for not running away from them. At the same time, there are some things in Amelia Rens' article regarding evolution that –by way of conscience- I must reply:

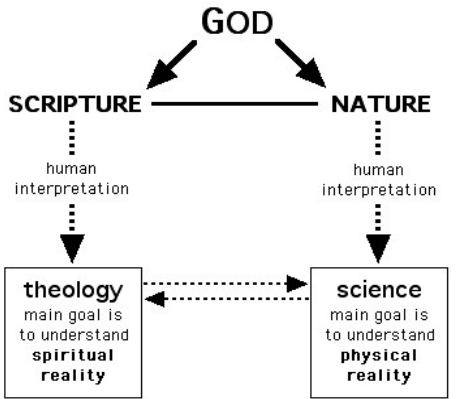
First of all, I want to say that I agree with Amelia that this is not ideal for people to grow up "sheltered" from the "real world". At the same time, I find this a little difficult to believe because the "real world" is everywhere. Sin is everywhere. TV is everywhere. The internet is everywhere. I wonder if people subconsciously exaggerate a tiny bit to fit a certain stereotype to make their case for evolution against a Biblical Christianity that seeks to separate itself from the world in a Biblical way (2 Cor 6:14-17; John 15:19 etc.).

Be that what it may, Amelia then described the powerful influence of a science professor who told her that there was no conflict between evolution (science) and "faith" (that ambiguously deceptive word). But here is the problem with this overused false dichotomy: The real battle here is not between "science" and "faith" but between the faith of evolution and the faith of the clear teaching of Scripture (Genesis). Evolution is by no means a scientific concept. Natural science -even according to the chart is a method of studying the natural world (operational/experimental science) but evolution is a story about the unobserved past.

That brings me to the chart, which really troubles me, as I believe it is very deceptive for Christians.

Yes, God is the author of Scripture and the creator of nature, but Scripture is inerrant and nature is cursed since the Fall. Both speak, but Scripture speaks verbally in propositional truth statements whereas nature speaks non-verbally. Verbal communication is always easier to understand (when the speaker is clearly seeking to communicate truth, as God is doing in His Word), than is non-verbal communication (Belgic Confession Art. 2, re. "more clearly and fully"! ). Verbal, propositional truth is necessary to understand, correctly, the non-verbal message. Therefore, Scripture should be used to guide our interpretation of nature and not the other way around.

Now, as Scripture tells us, nature does indeed reveal truth to us: it infallibly reveals the existence and some attributes of our Creator to all people in all times (Rom 1:20; Job 12:7-10; Acts 14:15-17, Acts 17:24-29, Ps 19:1, 97:6).



Nowhere does the Bible say that nature reveals its origin and history and that man can figure it out apart from God's 100% truthful eyewitness testimony about the past. No man saw the first days of creation, everything going on outside the ark, or Jesus' conception or His resurrection; and yet God was and is an eyewitness to all the events recorded in Scripture in a manner that even a five-year old can understand.

True, humans interpret both Scripture and nature but most interpreters of nature today are in rebellion against God and suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1:18). Whereas Bible-believing Christian interpreters love God and love the truth. Scripture is not given to us only to interpret spiritual reality, as the chart suggests, but to inform us about all of reality – as Article XII of the "Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy" rightfully states:

"We affirm that Scripture in its entirety is inerrant, being free from all falsehood, fraud, or deceit.

We deny that Biblical infallibility and inerrancy are limited to spiritual, religious or redemptive themes, exclusive of assertions in the fields of history and science. We further deny that scientific hypotheses about earth history may properly be used to overturn the teaching of Scripture on creation and the flood."

True, God does not call us to be complacent. He does not call us to deny an entire spectrum of His creation. But no young-earth creationist does either. To deny evolution or to deny what the current secular scientific majority believes is not denial of an entire spectrum of His creation. On the contrary, it is the theistic evolutionists who are denying God's Word (by their superficial attention to what is actually says regarding origins) and refusing to carefully consider the scientific evidence in God's creation that clearly refutes evolution and millions of years.

If readers would like to learn more about scientific arguments in line with the teachings of Scripture, refer to websites like [answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org) or [creation.com](http://creation.com)



## Dance team closes challenging season

Evangeline Colarossi -- Staff Writers



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The Defender Dance Team tied up their season last Friday at the 2018 NAIA qualifier. The team placed 7th at the competition, receiving a score of 60.83 in the preliminaries and bumping it up to 66.23 in the final performance. In November, the team received Division I placings in their pom, hip-hop and jazz routines that they performed at the Iowa State Dance Competition. They received a 72.75 at GPAC, earning them their 4th place spot.

The team has had a rollercoaster of a season. They started out with 18 dancers and lost eight of those over the year to graduation, injury, transferring and other commitments. Through each of their losses, the team learned to remember the commitment they had made. Weeks before the state competition, their coach gave birth, so the girls pulled together to challenge each other while their team captains ran the show. There have been knee and ankle braces hidden under costumes throughout the season, taped wrists and feet, multiple x-rays and even a boot for a fractured foot.

“After dancing for 14 years, this season was like none I have ever experienced,” said freshman Ashley Zwart. “Over the course of the season, our team lost many members and fought injury after injury and setback after setback. It was discouraging and we often wondered if it was worth it anymore, but we pushed on.”

The dance team launches into their season before the fall semester even starts and doesn’t stop until halfway through the spring semester. They worked together for more than 12 hours each week, taught seven routines at high school camp this summer, learned 22 sideline routines and four cheers at their fall camp, five routines for the home crowd, three competition routines and competed in six competitions. But even though their competition season is over, they’re now preparing again for tryouts in the spring, summer workouts and starting it all over again in several months.

One of their team’s frustrations is how unrecognized they are as a team. With a performance season that lasts six and a half months, they practice five days a week and perform almost every weekend. For the amount of time that the dancers put into their routines and conditioning, they only have two minutes on the court to show that. It’s in those two minutes that they have to prove themselves to be a sport worthy of acknowledgment.

“As our six-and-a-half-month season comes to a close, I can say that if our team learned anything this year, it’s that perseverance pays off,” Zwart said. “Just like any other sport, you have to learn how to dance and compete for the person on the court next to you, not yourself.”

Unlike most sports scoring systems, the scoring style used in duals and competitions is relative to the judges’ opinions. The score sheets have a maximum number of points that are available in each section, but the overall score depends on what each judge thinks the routine and performances factors are worth. This can result in large point differences between competitions, or even between judges.

Just because a number might be their lowest score does not mean it was their lowest performance. For each dancer, they come off of the court with mixed feelings about the performance. Some may feel like it was their best, while others wouldn’t agree.

“Despite the setbacks we faced, we gleaned so much from this season,” sophomore Hayley Visser said. “I am so thankful for the girls who persevered. I will treasure the memories we made and the relationships we built forever.”

## Life after the game: Tori Mann

Caleb Pollema -- Staff Writer



Contributed Photo

All athletes dread that moment when their career is finally over and it is time to move on. Most athletes will never forget the last time they lace up their cleats or the last time they take the court.

Many athletes have been shaped by their experiences on the court and on the field. One of those individuals is Dordt women’s soccer player Tori Mann.

Mann wore number 24 for the Defenders and played in all 19 games this past season. She scored six goals on the year and led the Defenders to a berth in the GPAC Conference tournament.

Even in the end of her soccer career, Mann is thankful for all the sport has done to shape the person she is today.

“I think one thing that has been really big is the experience of being a part of something bigger than myself and being really invested in it,” Mann said.

She explained how you can control your attitude and how it is important to react positively to negative situations by doing what is best for the team.

For Mann, her soccer career has been about more than just the game; it has been about the people that have shaped her along the way. Specifically, her sister, Heidi.

Heidi set an example for Mann early on as the sisters played soccer together in high school.

“She was a role model for me in how to play competitively while not losing sight of the more important things than winning,” Mann said.

She really admired her sister’s ability to influence her teammates both off and on the field, which led her to do the same.

As Mann looks back on her career, she will never forget the end-of-the-year gatherings at Coach Elgersma’s house and the fun the team had.

More than anything, she will miss the tight bond that she had with her teams as well as the Dordt fans that packed the stands for every game.

Mann is thankful for all the lessons she has learned throughout her career, but one stands out.

“You determine who you are by the way you act,” Mann said.

She plans to take this life lesson into her career. She wants to get a job in writing and public relations back home in Colorado Springs after graduation and eventually pursue her master’s degree.

Mann is looking forward to the opportunities ahead of her and is thankful for the many life lessons soccer has taught her along the way.

## Basketball teams wrap up their seasons

Clarissa Kraayenbrink -- Sports Editor

Both the Defenders men’s and women’s basketball teams earned postseason berth’s this year. After the men went 12-19 (6-12 in the GPAC), they secured their spot in the GPAC tournament by beating Briar Cliff on Saturday, Feb. 17, with a score of 81-75. The women got their berth earlier in the season and played Northwestern in the first round of the tournament after going 14-17 (8-12) in the regular season.

### Men vs. Morningside

The men faced the Morningside Mustangs in the first round of the GPAC tournament in Sioux City on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Morningside beat the Defender men 83-63 after leading most of the game.

“Coming off a win Saturday against Briar Cliff, we felt we had momentum,” said men’s assistant coach Derek Keizer. “We knew [Morningside] was a very tough opponent, but we knew if we did the things we focused on, we’d be in good shape.”

Morningside took the lead early on until Dordt rallied back to lead 31-30 with a three-pointer from freshman Kyle Lang with just over seven minutes left in the first half. Dordt’s lead did not last long and the Mustangs led the Defenders 50-40 at halftime.

“We came out [for] the second half feeling pretty good,” Keizer said. “We played great defense the second half, but we just couldn’t score.”

Dordt closed the 10-point gap, starting with three baskets made by junior Alec Henrickson right out of the gate. Dordt eventually went up



Contributed Photo

by one point via a Chad Barkema three-pointer. Morningside took the lead back after a tie at 57-57 and never looked back. Morningside scored 26 more points in the game thanks in part to a 13-2 run late in the second half. Dordt scored only six more points and the Mustangs came away with the win in the first round of the postseason.

“I don’t think our guys got frustrated with one another; I think they were frustrated they just couldn’t find a way to score,” Keizer said.

The team will lose two seniors in Andrew O’Donnell and Taylor Feenstra, but their core group of players will remain the same, which bodes well for them. Keizer had positive feelings about the season overall, despite the men’s win-loss record. He looks forward to the offseason and the players growing and preparing for next fall.

“The [team] chemistry never faltered,” Keizer said. “We got along, we fought hard, we fought for one another all the time, but we couldn’t get over the hump in a lot of close games.”

### Women vs. Northwestern

The women’s team traveled across the county to take on the Northwestern women on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Northwestern won by 11 with a final score of 75-64, the score remained much more even throughout the game.

“Playing them a third time was kind of saying, ‘What kind of game plan can we put in place that we’re going to feel confident about?’” head coach Kyle Lindbergh said.

Dordt only scored six points in the first quarter, but they only gave up 12. Four of those points came from sophomore Rachel Evavold, who was one of the lead scorers for the Defenders with 16 points on the night. The other two points were from freshman Erika Feenstra, who led the team with 17 points.

In the second quarter, sophomore Payton Harmsen tied the game up at 14-14 with a three-pointer. The teams tied scores again at 17-17 and 19-19. Northwestern entered halftime leading 27-24. Dordt caught up again in the third quarter with a pair of free throws from

Feenstra to bring the score to 33-33. Sophomore Ebby Prewitt had nine of her 12 points in the third quarter to tie Northwestern two times, at 38-38 and 47-47, respectively. Northwestern was up just three points, 52-49, going into the fourth and final quarter of the game.

“When they kind of blew it open there, that gave them the confidence,” Lindbergh said. “For us, with about five to six minutes left in the game, that was a big margin to chip back at. We just weren’t able to get back over the hump of that deficit of 10 points.”

Northwestern took a lead too far for Dordt to close in on in the fourth quarter. Dordt was down by 16 with just over one minute left in the game, and with the help of Evavold and freshman Siennah Stamness, Dordt ended the game down by 11, 75-64.

“We had a few mismatches that we weren’t thrilled about,” Lindbergh said. “As a coaching staff, that’s a regret that’s going to eat at me all offseason.”

Like Keizer, Lindbergh looks forward to the offseason and seeing his players grow.

“I definitely have a lot of fond memories from this season,” Lindbergh said of his first season coaching the Defender women. “But overall, just to see the growth from our very first practice, our very first game, to our very last game, both as a team and as individual players.”

The women’s team is graduating only Steffi Cunard, who is graduating a year early to attend graduate school. Kenzie Bousema will be the team’s lone senior next season and Lindbergh looks forward to keeping this team together and adding the new freshman class next fall.



# Movie-making madness

Zachary Sanford & Allison Wordes -- Staff Writers



Contributed Photos

Senior Ben Kiuper’s ‘Player 2 Productions’, featuring six Dordt students took home the ‘Dordty’ award at the 12th annual Prairie Grass Film Challenge awards ceremony.

On Feb. 23, people from all across the Midwest stepped up to the challenge of creating Prairie Grass XII’s greatest short film.

As opposed to Dordt’s digital media senior short films, contestants in the Prairie Grass Film Challenge (PGFC) had to be completed in just 48 hours. All of the storyboarding, scriptwriting, filming and editing packed around classes in two days; which, for many teams, meant not sleeping at all.

To help give the directors a direction for each of their movies, they were assigned a genre and given a selection of props and characters to include. A character named Vern the Baker, a tweet and a box of cookies were several examples of the additions required in the films.



Many of the productions succeeded in filling the criteria, but only four teams managed to shine above the rest.

There are four different awards that get handed out each year: Best of High School, Best of College, Best of Post-College and the Supreme Winner ‘Dordty’ Award for best overall film.

The PGFC is something unique to the region. The Midwest has a smaller turnout compared to contests on the East or West coasts.

Dordt College students submitted six of the 40 films judged. During the film screenings, the Business Club served snacks from the Bunsen brew—including Skittles, popcorn and root beer floats—while the Communication Club worked the technical side of the showings in various classrooms.

Kaitlyn Frye is the production assistant for

PGFC. This is her second year as an assistant. She is also the workstudy in Dordt’s Digital Media department. Her tasks include watching all the DVD’s and putting together the videos for the awards ceremony. At the ceremony, she was up in the sound booth making sure the event proceeded smoothly. Perks of the job are knowing who the winners are before they are announced.

“Although I can’t participate, watching everyone else working all day and night is entertaining to watch,” Frye said. “I get my popcorn, sit back and watch.”

At the film screenings, people meandered around the maze of hallways in the Science Building. A viewer might find themselves watching a movie filled with donuts, globes, pizza bowling, bananas or other odd occurrences.

At the end of the night, with everyone gathered in the B.J. Haan Auditorium, the judges chose the top four films. People were very excited to see the long-awaited awards handed out and to see some more movies.

“I feel really good,” said Damon Groen, Player 2 Productions’ lead actor. “It was my first experience of acting in front of the camera and I got to be with some awesome people who have been involved for a long time. I’m just a newbie and they took me under their wing.”

The times and dates for next year’s competition are already posted and this year’s movies are available online to watch and vote for viewers’ favorites.



# Junior’s showcase their art

Allison Wordes -- Staff writer

The usually sparse art gallery found itself crowded with spectators.

Some people wandered around and peered closely at the details on an oil painting, nose to canvas. Others restrained the urge to pick up the smooth ceramic teapots, and instead took a close-up picture. Spotlights blinded others who turned around too quickly. The festive chattering and dressed-up attendees livened the look of the artwork, as though it was excited to be noticed and talked about. Unoccupied as the gallery usually is, tonight there was the feel of a professional debut.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, an open house in the Dordt College Campus Center Art Gallery gave an opportunity for upperclassmen art students to present their work. Seven of Dordt’s junior artists hold the spotlight this month. The gallery will be up until March 18. Professor Matt Drissell hosted the event, in place of Professor Versluis who was not able to attend due to illness.

This year’s students included Jenna Stephens, Sarah Dykstra, Jonathan Fictorie, Tessa De Jong, Amber Ybema, Shauna Vander Kooi and Christina Chahyadinata. Three of the seven artists are off campus, which is unusual for this annual show. There are a variety of media being displayed, including prints, drawings, pottery, paintings and even a wooden sculpture.

Tessa De Jong is a senior graphic design major who is graduating before she can do a senior art show, so this was her opportunity to showcase an accumulation of her college work.

“I learned that catalogue design is where my passion is,” De Jong said.

She showed prints from a website she designed and catalogue spreads she created for an internship.

Amber Ybema, majoring in pre-architecture, presented her design work and some paintings. She hopes to further develop her design skills with Adobe Illustrator and InDesign before producing a senior show.

Jenna Stephens, fine arts/graphic design major and journalism minor, said she enjoyed tying her work to her Dutch heritage, with themes such as tulips and landscapes.

“I enjoy working on a large scale,” Stephens said.

Taking art classes in college was a large jump from barely taking any art in high school, and she challenges herself to try unusual things. Each new art class is as scary and exciting as the last.

“I don’t have to be a perfectionist,” she said.

She learned not to overthink, but instead work from gut reactions. For her senior show, she wants to focus in on one area, possibly printmaking.

Christina Chahyadinata, majoring in graphic design, also has a minor in psychology. She printed out all of her work to look like screenshots, in order to let viewers see how her workspace looks on a daily basis.

“My passion is calligraphy illustration,” Chahyadinata said.

She said her art influences all areas of her life. Another passion of hers is photography. In her senior art show, she hopes to include more tangible art, moving away from computer-generated pieces.

“I’m glad it’s a group,” Ybema said.

The students were together in Drissell’s drawing class, and some took graphic design classes together as well. They have been able to grow their skills at a similar pace.

“We’ve been together from the beginning,” De Jong said.

Photo By: Jenna Stephens



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